

M/047/007

**From:** Pete Sokolosky <psokolos@ut.blm.gov>  
**To:** NRDOMAIN.NROGM(TGALLEGO)  
**Date:** 10/6/98 1:01pm  
**Subject:** Correspondence with SF Phosphates re: Plan of Operation

This office received a revised plan of operation from JBR Environmental Consultants (filed on behalf of SF Phosphates; BLM case or serial number UTU 76097) on Sept. 22, 1998. Following review of the revised plan, the attached letter was forwarded to the operator. You are being forwarded an electronic version of the letter (attached) so as to keep your agency informed [under existing memorandum of understanding] of the BLM's status of plan processing. Please note that the operator is being requested to forward you a copy of the revised plan.

The next processing step is the writing of an EA or environmental assessment. It is a management decision whether or not to release an EA for a public comment period. You may wish to inform Duane DePaepe of this office (Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT 84078 or via e-mail at <ddepaepe@ut.blm.gov>) if you wish to be added to a list to receive a copy of the EA should it be released for public comment.

Please let me know if you have any questions (435 781-4501 or e-mail <psokolos@ut.blm.gov>).

We appreciate being informed of the status of applications by and approvals [by your agency] to SF Phosphates related to their proposal to expand their tailings storage facility.

Peter Sokolosky  
Geologist  
Vernal Field Office (BLM)

attachment: Oct. 6, 1998 letter



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Vernal Field Office

<http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal>

170 South 500 East Phone: (435) 781-4400  
Vernal, Utah 84078-2799 Fax: (435) 781-4410

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809  
76097  
UT083

October 6, 1998

Mr. Ron Ryan  
SF Phosphates L.C.  
9401 North Highway 191  
Vernal, Utah 84078

Re: Plan of operation filed to conduct operations, serial no. UTU  
76097 T.3S., R.21E., Sec. 1 S2NE and T.3S., R.22E. Sec. 6 S2N2  
(SLB&M)

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This is to inform you [as required under 43 CFR 3809.1-6(a)] that your plan of operation dated July 24, 1998 (as revised Sept. 17, 1998) was recently reviewed. It is found to contain a sufficient amount of information such that the environmental assessment process can begin. However, this office does request the following of you the operator.

-- Our office does want copies of pending permit applications (from other agencies) and approved permits issued by other agencies involving the TSF, as well as future filings for permits and any future permit approvals.

-- The BLM has MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with UDOGM and DWQ, mostly with regards to sharing of information about surface management filings. We would encourage you send UDOGM and DWQ copies (cc's) of filings you make with this office.

This office has been informed that your company is interested in contracting the work of writing

M/047/007

an EA (Environmental Assessment). We have no objection to such, but the work must be coordinated with and through Duane DePaepe, the NEPA/Planning Coordinator of this office. Additional information about operations, including plans to extract borrow material and TSF expansion on private surface [adjacent to the unpatented mill sites] as well as SF Phosphates mining operations may be required as part of cumulative impact analysis.

There may be a period of scoping through which issues and alternatives with regards to your plan are developed. The writing of the EA is subject to review by management and resource specialists of this office. The EA may be subject to a 30 day public comment period [potentially resulting in further analysis and release for additional public comment]. As such, I must inform you that, as the AO (Authorized Officer) in the matter of 3809 plans that [under the provisions of 43 CFR 3809.1-6(a)(3)] the analysis of the plan is expected to exceed 30 days, but should not exceed an additional 60 days.

Correspondence with this office in this matter should make reference to the serial number assigned to the plan - UTU 76097. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Sokolosky or Duane DePaepe at this office.

Sincerely,

David E. Howell  
Vernal District Field Manager

cc: JBR Environmental Consultants  
UDOGM (via e-mail)  
UDEQ - DWQ (via e-mail)